

• C o u n t e r p o i s e •

The Amateur Radio Club of El Cajon

Volume XLVIII

December 2007

Number 12



Amateur Radio Club of El Cajon meets every 2nd Thursday at 7:00 pm at the First Lutheran Church of El Cajon. The address is 867 South Lincoln Ave. Next meeting:

December 13, 2007 7:00 pm

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All Official written communication is to be submitted to:

A.R.C.E.C. P.O. Box 50, El Cajon, CA 92022

The Counterpoise is a publication of the Amateur Radio Club of El Cajon (ARCEC). It is published once monthly and contributions are accepted from officers and members of the club. We also encourage input from members of the Amateur Radio Club of El Cajon. Opinions expressed are solely that of the author and do not necessarily reflect the opinions of the Amateur Radio Club of El Cajon (ARCEC). Articles may be submitted either by e-mail or mail to the editor.

Paul Rios at:

WA6BGScounterpoise@cox.net or by post
1237 Victor Ave #4, El Cajon, CA 92021

The Deadline is Sunday after the General Meeting.

Amateur Radio Club of El Cajon

Web Site: <http://www.wa6bgs.org>

Counterpoise E-Mail address

WA6BGScounterpoise@cox.net

Happy
Holidays
WA6BGS
2007



Christmas Party on December 18, 2007
at Home Town Buffet in El Cajon.
Dinner at 6pm and meeting at 7pm.

2007 Officers

President	KC6QLS	Paul Rios	593-9445
Vice-President	AI6O	Ed Felter	668-0928
Secretary	N6OPH	Mike Maston	296-9067
Treasurer	KG6JCW	Mike "Stogie" Panger	263-4439

2007 Board of Directors

Affiliated Clubs	AE6AV	Larry Plummer	460-1818
Instructor	AE6QW	Gordon Shackelford	561-6323
Membership	KC6TBG	Ann Rios	593-9445
Net Manager	KG6TDP	Mike Oberbauer	444-9090
Public Service	N6NKJ	Rich Beisigl	444-5465
Social	KD6PRV	Anselmo Ruiz	574-0720

2007 Standing Committees

Bylaws	OPEN		
Club Attire	K6PKS	Paul Schmidt	733-2284
Counterpoise Editor	KC6QLS	Paul Rios	593-9445
Education	N6OPH	Mike Maston	296-9067
Elmer	WA6L	John Graf	368-7413
EOC H2O District	OPEN		
Estate Sales	N6JOJ	Tom Myrick	449-3547
Field Day	AI6O	Ed Felter	668-0928
Health & Welfare	OPEN		
Historian	OPEN		
Photographer	KI6EEL	Bridget Rios	
Post Mistress	KC6TBG	Ann Rios	593-9445
Prizes	AF6BC	Floyd Lang	303-6711
Public Relations	KC6QLS	Paul Rios	593-9445
SANDARC Delegate	K5WFW	Len Fulbright	258-1322
Swap Meet	N6JOJ	Tom Myrick	449-3547
Technical	W6RHW	Bob Boehme	448-4728
Ticket Lady	KI6EEK	Lisie Rios	
WA6BGS Trustee	AE6CQ	Michael Martak	562-6477
WAMO	W6CCM	Erich Bennett	401-7332
Web Master	KC6QLS	Paul Rios	593-9445
Welcome	KI6JUD	Linda Weed	971-1535

Staff and Writers

KC6QLS	Paul	Editor
AI6O	ED	Vice President
N6OPH	Mike	Meeting Minutes
KI6FIH	Tassy	HAM Spot Light
AE6CQ	Michael	WAMO
W5COM	Tom & Lisie	Jokes
N6NKJ	Rich	Amateur Radio at Large
WA6L	John	Down Below in EC
WA6MHZ	Pat	Crest Radio Museum
KI6EEL	Bridget	Photos

SANTEE DRIVE-IN SWAP MEET

10990 Woodside Ave., North
FOR INFORMATION, CALL 449-SWAP
Ham Radio, Computers, Electronics
ACRES & ACRES OF BARGAINS
1st & 3rd Saturday of the Month
GATES OPEN 6:30 AM

From The President

Paul KC6QLS



It saddens me that Past President, Bylaws Committee and Health and Welfare Committee Chair John Cordle KF6XY has become a Silent Key. He has served our club for many years. I can remember taking my family to the El Cajon Friendship Festival for many years and seeing and speaking with John at the El Cajon Booth where he enthusiastically greeted people and talked to them about amateur radio while he stamped their Passport. He will truly be missed. Services will be on Tuesday, December 4, 2007 at 5:30 p.m. at Our Lady Of Grace.

It has been a pleasure serving as President this past year. Our club continues to grow and we continue to be more involved in our community. We have set some event goals for the next year such as another successful Field Day, our first time at the Kids Best fair booth, the Fire Station Open House and the Mother Goose Parade. I look forward to serving as President again and ask for your support and vote.

I am looking forward to seeing everyone at the Christmas Party on December 18, 2007 at Home Town Buffet in El Cajon. Dinner at 6pm and meeting at 7pm. Please join us for our end of the year party and fun.

Happy Holidays,
Paul KC6QLS

Silent Key
John Cordle, KF6XY
WAMO # 475

Amateur Radio Club of El Cajon

General Membership Meeting
8 November 2007



The general membership meeting was called to order by the club president Paul, KC6QLS at 1900hrs.

SECRETARY'S report was distributed to the general membership. The minutes were approved as corrected. There was an incorrect call sign noted for Steve Weed. **TREASURER'S** report was read by Stogie, KG6JCW. It was approved as read and filed for audit.

NOMINATIONS COMMITTEE report was read by Rich, N6NKJ. The nominees for officers were:

President: Paul KC6QLS and John WA6L; **Vice president:** Steve KO4QT; **Secretary:** Dan N6ERD; **Treasurer:** Stogie KG6JCW. For members of the Board of Directors: Ann KC6TBG; Rich N6NKJ; Larry AE6AV; Gordon AE6QW; Mike KG6TDP; Richard KF6KE & Dan KI6FCR. Pat W6VJT was nominated from the floor for the Board of Directors. There were no further nominations from the floor for Officers or the Board of Directors. The election for the contested offices would be by secret ballot.

Also, Paul, KC6QLS announced the nominations for Ham of the Year would be received during this evening's meeting.

This evening's program is the Home Brew Contest. Three judges were appointed by the Board of Directors. They are Larry AE6AV; Dan KI6FCR and Mike N6OPH.

HOME BREW PROJECTS:

Novice class consisted of the following projects. Ken, KI6HRH project was a portable solar battery powered power source for emergency stations use. Larry, AE6AV a tool box portable go kit for emergency use complete with HF as well as VHF/UHF capability. Ken's was the winning entry for novices. For the novice antenna was Paul Schmidt K6PKS and his project was two meter portable desktop antenna as well as a outdoor pole two meter antenna. For the extra class category, the following projects were presented: Pat, WA6MHZ project was a resistor substitution box. This project would allow you to test a resistor of unknown value while troubleshooting radio equipment. Paul has collected money for the radio equipment for CALFIRE. The club would be purchasing the Yaesu 8900 quad band rig along with required antenna equipment. Approximately \$300 has been collected. The club membership was asked to help out during the Dulzorra fire. There was a great response from the club membership which was very much appreciated.

PUBLIC RELATIONS: The Mother Goose Parade trailer is just about completed for the parade. The parade would be held on 18 November in El Cajon. Paul also spoke about some of the activities planned for the Del Mar Fair.

MEMBERSHIP stands at 267 and the last WAMO is 1747. There were 41 attendees at this evening's meeting.

VICE PRESIDENT Ed, AI6O stated that the December meeting will be the elections and then the Christmas party. Ed thanked the club for his service on the board as well as holding office. Christmas Party would be on 18 December.

SANDARC report was given by Mike N6OPH. Due to the firestorm that was then in progress, the Executive Board met and recommended that the SANDARC Chairman be permitted to sign the contract with the 2010 convention venue and be authorized to commit SANDARC to \$20K costs. When a quorum was present the council approved the action of the Executive Board. A short report was given by Steve, AD6VI concerning the response to the current firestorm and the role of amateur radio in that response. Also, Skip, KD6RFQ stated there was no Del Mar fair committee meeting and there would unlikely be another in the near future during the firestorm. He also stated for personal and family reasons he was no longer able to carry out his duties as the Del Mar Fair chairman and tendered his resignation as such. He also resigned his office of SANDARC Vice-Chairman. The resignation would be effective on 26 October. His resignation was accepted with regrets. The Executive Committee reconvened and appointed Paul, KC6QLS as Vice Chairman. However, due to the text of the constitution and by-laws of SANDARC the appointment would not be ratified until the January 2008 meeting of the Council. Also, the SANDARC chair would need to replace Paul once he is confirmed which would also require the council's approval. A special meeting for SANDARC is provisionally scheduled for depending on the availability of the venue. This meeting would be called to assess the damages if any to any of club assets or determine the needs of the amateur radio community and also to provide an update to the convention 2010 negotiations. NET has maintained about 17-20 members check in.

PUBLIC SERVICE chairman Rich N6NKJ stated that CALFIRE did not need assistance from local hams for the recent firestorm.

ARES meeting would be held at the Sharp Hospital corporate headquarters near Kearny Mesa Blvd this coming Saturday morning starting at 0730hrs.

There being no further business before the general membership the meeting was adjourned at 2103hrs.

Respectfully submitted

Michael P Maston, N6OPH
Secretary

Amateur Radio Club of El Cajon

From The Vice President AI6O ED



First, I want to say how saddened I am at the loss of John Cordle, KF6XY. He was a stalwart in the ARCEC club. For many years he was a strong leader in the amateur radio club fraternity. He was one of those who administered my Extra class license examination several years ago and he befriended me from that time forward. We then served together on the VE team at North Park. Rest in peace.

Then I want to say how much I have appreciated the opportunities I have had to serve the Amateur Radio Club of El Cajon in leadership. For the last four years I have served on the Executive Board in various capacities and am thankful for the privilege. The last two years, I have been the Vice President, serving with Paul, KC6QLS, our club President. Paul and I have had a tremendous sense of nearly identical purpose for ARCEC. We have set goals and achieved them through his leadership. Paul (and the rest of the Board) has been great to work with. Paul has a real vision for the club. I have tried to carry out the assignments given me in order to see the tasks accomplished to the benefit of the club. For my part, it has been terrific to be able to assist and serve with Paul and the board. He and they have the club's best interests at heart and I know Paul wants to follow through in service as our leader. We have worked extremely well together and I leave the post of service the club so generously elected me to only because my work load will not permit me to be in the monthly board meetings. Paul and the board have been gracious to overlook my recent absences but it is not fair to them or you. So I step back a little but with no ill feelings and only my strongest support of present and future leadership.

Thanks again for the privilege of serving, and I continue to be a strong, loyal member of ARCEC. To our new leadership I say....

Straight Ahead!
73,
Ed, AI6O

WA6BGS Nets

Mike Oberbauer:	KG6TDP	Net Manger
Mike Oberbauer:	KG6TDP	Net Controller
Frito	N6WKB	Wide Open Nets
Ed Felter	AI6O	WAMO/D

WAMO NETS:

Wednesday and Saturday Nights
8:00 pm local time 7:30 "Checkins"

Tuesday Night Rag Chew net:
8:00 pm

Nets held on club repeaters

WA6BGS Repeaters

RX 147.420 (146.475) 107.2 PL

RX 224.080 – 107.2 PL

RX 445.900 – 107.2 PL

Don't miss it. All members welcome.

New WAMO/D Net

ARCEC, San Diego Digital VHF Net

Time: 8:00 p.m.

Day: Thurs. "Except 2nd Thurs. of the month"

Mode: PSK31

Frequency: 50.290 MHz. and a QSY to 144.144 MHz

This is an open net and all are invited. Early check-ins will be taken. Hope to see you on the waterfall!

WAMO means Worked All Members Only. The purpose of WAMO is to encourage people to people communication between club members and to publicize the name of the club among fellow amateurs.


Calendar of Events December 2007

Dec.	1:	Swap Meet, Santee Drive In, 6:30 am
Dec.	1:	T-Hunt, Grossmont College lot, 6:00 pm
Dec.	5:	Board Meeting, 7:00 pm
Dec.	6:	SDDVHF PSK Net 8 PM 20.290 MHz
Dec.	13:	General Meeting, 7:00 pm
Dec.	15:	Swap Meet, Santee Drive In, 6:30 am
Dec.	15:	T-Hunt, Grossmont College lot, 6:00 pm
Dec.	18:	"Tuesday" Christmas Party #####
Dec.	20:	Counterpoise Dead Line
Dec.	20:	SDDVHF PSK Net 8 PM 20.290 MHz
Dec.	27:	SDDVHF PSK Net 8 PM 20.290 MHz
Jan.	1:	New Years Day

Upcoming Event Dates

Dinner at 6 pm & meeting at 7 pm

LAKE SIDE MUFFLER & WELDING
COMPLETE AUTO REPAIR



GARY YATES
OWNER

12461 WOODSIDE AVE.
LAKE SIDE, CA 92040

(619) 561-3202



Tom Mc Duffie KM6K, Manager
5375 Kearny Villa Road
San Diego, CA 92123
(858) 560-4900 or 1-800-854-6046

The Counterpoise is also online in FULL COLOR. Check it out and the club's website at: www.wa6bgs.org

Get your advanced copy by e-mail. I will send it out in .PDF format the night it goes to print. E-mail me and let me know that you would like a copy. Size of file may be up to 1.5 mb at times.

Change of Address

Moving?

Do not miss an issue of the Counterpoise. Fill out the Change of address form below.

Call _____ WAMO# _____
Name _____
Address _____
City _____ State _____ Zip _____
New Address:
Address _____
City _____ State _____ Zip _____

Send to Membership Chairperson:
A.R.C.E.C./ P.O. Box 50, El Cajon, CA 92022

ARCEC Membership Application

1. Amateur Call Sign	2. Class of License
3. First Name	4. Last Name
5. Street Address	6. City, State, Zip+4
7. Home Phone	8. Work Phone
May we list: Y N	
9. DOB	10. e-mail
11. ARRL Member Yes no	12. ARES Member Yes No
13. RACES Member Yes No	14. Sponsored by: or Family Member

Return this form with check made payable to the Amateur Radio Club of El Cajon or ARCEC for new or renewal membership. Annual Dues \$18.00 for Individual, \$30.00 for family. New members add \$5.00 per member. Include your call on Check. Mail to
Membership Chairperson
A.R.C.E.C, P.O. Box 50, El Cajon, CA 92022

New () or Renewal ()	WAMO Number
Certificate Issued	Dues from _____ To _____
Paid Cash ()	Check No.
Check ()	Date Paid:

Computer Roster Available

Want the roster sent to you via e-mail? Send an e-mail to Ann Rios KC6TBG, and she will send you the database back as an attachment. She uses Excel, but may be able to convert to various formats if asked. Send your request to 619-593-9445 or KC6TBG@cox.net

FUN PAGE

Birthdays December

December 1	K6PZE	Richard	Gird
December 1	KK7MQ	Jeff	Chambers
December 4	KD6WFT	Lee	Darter
December 6	KC6QLS	Paul	Rios
December 7	KI6DTA	Gloria	Lyons
December 8	KD6JXR	Tom	Walker
December 11	K7VP	Virgil	Pattin
December 12	KI6EEL	Bridget	Rios
December 16	KB7NG	Bob	Bostick
December 18	KI6IAR	Bill	Shaw
December 18	K6PKS	Paul	Schmidt
December 19	N6FRX	Tom	Thompson
December 19	KF6YVK	Mary	Durante-Le Leu
December 20		Ruth	Rogers
December 21	KC6TBG	Ann	Rios
December 22	KN6HP	Lee	Sheeler
December 23	KD6CYS	Claude	Gunnensen
December 25	KF6XB	Russ	Davison Jr
December 26	K7URR	Larry	Johnson
December 29	K7BAV	Jim	Gould
December 29	KI6DZG	Nicholas	Lang
December 30	KD6YAT	Jim	Logan
December 30	KE6THZ	Paul	Adams
December 31	N6IEF	Mike	Lebo
December		Carrie	Brummund

Brain Thinkers

2= L. in the H. B. 2 Lungs in the Human Body

4= S. in a R. 4 Sides in a Rectangle

13= O. C. 13 Original Colonies

----- This Months -----

2= W. that D.'t M. a R.

6= S. in a H.

10= P. in C.

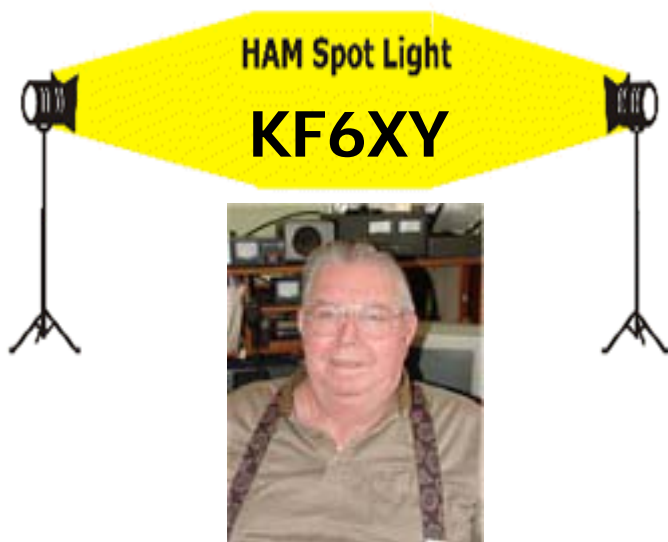
Word Search "Holidays"

M O C E L E B R A T I O N S G K
E W H S O P S D X W S O T O H P
M X R K D I N N E R Y K P X P Z
O P I W R Z X C V J W S K Z W H
R K S N O W M A N Q A R S O A O
I G T H X S U R W S U W X K D F
E Z M D O Q W D F D S H U W Y A
S O A F W P U S A T J N F A H M
W E S G D K P K F X A Q W N D I
T K L R Z H L I G H T S O Z Q L
R U Y D F Y G W N J K U D A O V
E Z W G N S O U A G Y T R A P W
E U G Z R A G K Q Z S R V F X U
S S E R V I C E S E O U X Q R G
Q Z G P R F R I E N D S P Q L S
P F K D O W X R U P I H S R O W
D E C O R A T E P O Q K P D Y K

- | | |
|---------------------------------------|-----------------------------------|
| <input type="checkbox"/> CANDLES | <input type="checkbox"/> KWANZAA |
| <input type="checkbox"/> CARDS | <input type="checkbox"/> LIGHTS |
| <input type="checkbox"/> CELEBRATIONS | <input type="checkbox"/> MEMORIES |
| <input type="checkbox"/> CHRISTMAS | <input type="checkbox"/> PARTY |
| <input type="checkbox"/> DECORATE | <input type="checkbox"/> PHOTOS |
| <input type="checkbox"/> DINNER | <input type="checkbox"/> SERVICES |
| <input type="checkbox"/> FAMILY | <input type="checkbox"/> SHOPPING |
| <input type="checkbox"/> FRIENDS | <input type="checkbox"/> SNOWMAN |
| <input type="checkbox"/> GIFTS | <input type="checkbox"/> TREES |
| <input type="checkbox"/> HANUKAH | <input type="checkbox"/> WORSHIP |

Last Months Word Search

G N I V T G S K N A H T T C F H
W U G C H W J Y P N G O T N O
S F X J D C Z X W T X G A O X H
C R A B D C Q K E S E D T S E
G T W D A L Q J P N Q T T C R E
X P D Y H O X K S N F H T A Y R
J K I S C W T W Y D Z R O A T W
Q G E Y Z E G J G K V H N V X F
J R G D S Z P U Z W E S W T S
S H N X F U T C V F S W U R C
D H D H E R C O O E S R D A U
W S C R G P W Y S T G K Y S Y G
W Y A U G D F P C L W T Z E K
S G F A R A P E Y V X J Q L S
R C J W F S Q X Z W U P Y U Z Q
I E A S T K X J Y T S G F G X J



May 2005 Re-print

We dedicate this Counterpoise to John Cordle KF6XY.

He's the all around nice guy, voted Ham of the Year twice (1989 and 1998) and follows through with what he says he'll do. He's honest and straight forward. He knows what he's talking about and others admire him for it. After 24 years as a member of the El Cajon Amateur Radio Club, John Cordle has more than earned the spotlight, he deserves it. KF6XY, WAMO 475 is thisMonth's Ham.

His daughter Rebecca KE6IQX and Granddaughter KF6YVL followed in Mary's N6KHR footsteps in joining being a ham. Although Mary is a silent key, she is still around in our hearts. He is the man who helped get the 2 meter repeater frequency up and running. He also started the WAMO net and ran it twice a week for ten years. In that time, he has worked with close to 1100 WAMO contacts.

He has worked with the Mother Goose Parade and Special Olympics, as well as volunteer as an examiner with SANDARC for ten years. In addition, he has served as a membership chairman, director and president of the club in 1998. As a life member of the club, John has an Extra license and has contacted world-wide. He played an important role in the creation of

the bylaws for the Club. From other Hams, John is well liked and venerated for his many contributions to the El Cajon Amateur Radio Club. His work has ensured the enjoyment and service of Hams for future generations. Never just a voice on the radio, the spotlight shines on KF6XY. 73!

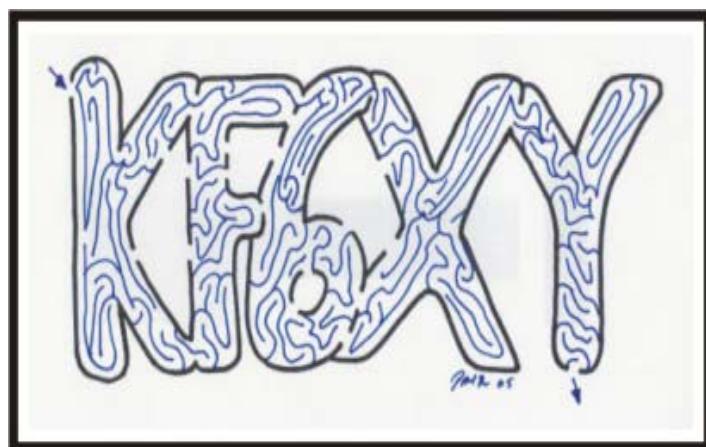
Tassy Rios KI6FIH

John, will be missed by many.

SERVICES

John Cordle KF6FY Services will be on Tuesday, December 4, 2007 at 5:30 p.m. at Our Lady Of Grace and are open to all.

MAZE



Jokes

God made relatives - Thank God we can choose our friends!

Lisie KI6EEK

The Editor's
Corner
KC6QLS Paul



Editor's Corner

I would like to thank everyone who has submitted articles throughout the year. Truly, if it was not for you and your articles, the Counterpoise would not be what it is. Please continue to submit your ideas, stories and photos to share with our club members.

Paul, KC6QLS

Public Relations

The Mother Goose Parade was a lot of fun and went well. Thank you to our committee, builders and riders. The float had a new design this year, and we had three new ARCEC signs made, which the club can use at other events such as Field Day, the fair, the Fire Station Open House, and other club events. Our goal in the parade was, and continues to be, for the ARCEC to promote amateur radio as not only a hobby and a service, but also a way of life. We are looking forward to promoting amateur radio again at the Del Mar Fair and are looking for volunteers for that committee. If you can help, please let me know.

73, Paul Rios, KC6QLS



Volunteers Needed

Up Coming Events

San Diego County Fair "ARCEC Booth"

Please Sign up at the next meeting

E-Mail

Address for the Counterpoise. Please submit all *Counterpoise* Mail to:

WA6BGS_counterpoise@cox.net

Prize Table Needs Help

Thank you for your contributions to the Prize Table! We still need your Support and Help or it may just end up a thing of the past. Please contact: Floyd Lang AF6BC at 303-6711.

Things to keep in mind

Get on the El Cajon ARC Reflector

To sign up visit:

<http://groups.yahoo.com/group/elcajonarc/>

You will get the latest news about The Club and things going on in the Ham world.

Quote of the Month

"Sons are the anchors of a mother's life."

- Sophocles *Phaedra*, fragment 612

For Amateur Radio Public Relations San Diego
Please visit
www.arprsd.org



Crest Radio Museum

Pat Bunsold, WA6MHZ



Today's intensive surgery involves cracking open the case of a MULTI-THOUSAND dollar radio and doing a Lampectomy on it. Club Prez Paul KC6QLS is most fortunate to have a beautiful Kenwood TS-2000 all band/mode radio with the 1296 module installed. This compact, light radio has more features and bells/whistles than the other brands that are twice its size! Everything worked great, but the LCD panel lamps were burnt out. With a radio of this stature, you would think Kenwood would have chosen a technology newer than the 1920s to illuminate the dial, but it had 6 little grain of wheat incandescent lamps spaced around the display, which frequently burn out. Changing out these lamps is no easy task, as we shall see. But why not improve on the Technology and update the radio to the 21st century? Paul had found an article where they replaced the lamps with high intensity LED's and he acquired the parts. It was time to open up the victim.

I have a wonderful work station at my employment where I can do such repairs so the Kenwood was brought there. Ever so carefully, it was disassembled after I had downloaded the Service Manual for it from the MODS.DK website. This has a wealth of manuals for free. The exploded diagram showed just how to take it apart and (hopefully) get it back together. I use Rubio's hot sauce cups to hold the misc. screws and parts so they can be sorted and not lost on the table. The front panel assembly was removed and it is interfaced to the main chassis by a single small ribbon cable. Guess this is so it can be easily removed. The main chassis was placed in bubble wrap to protect it during the surgery. All the knobs had to be removed and I was most pleased I had wisely bought a metric Allen wrench set to get the main knob off. After more screws and parts, the LCD display board was removed from the panel and the 6 Lamps were visible. These are all surface mount parts, so I use 2 soldering irons at once to remove them. Same with the series resistors. Trying to do it one side at a time will result in the traces being lifted. A new 150

ohm series resistor replaced the 5 ohm lamp resistor. Now it was time to bend the LED's so they would fit in the space for the lamps. Each lead was bent so that no strain would be placed on the plastic where the lead came out from when it was installed. Polarity and functionality was checked, and the LED's were soldered in place. Now the panel was re-installed and the knobs put back on. The radio was put back together and it was time for the smoke test. To my dismay, nothing happened when we powered it on. What did I do wrong? OH, the power cable had a blown fuse! (I didn't blow it!!) That repaired, we tried a 2nd time. This time, the radio came on, and instead of the standard Kenwood dull orange glow, the LCD had a bright bluish white display!!! Looks great!!! We checked the radio out on my expensive Spectrum analyzer and signal generator and it performed up to spec on all bands and modes. So, that wasn't so hard after all. Just wouldn't want to try it on the Kitchen table!

73!

Pat WA6MHZ

Curator

Crest Radio Museum



DOWN BELOW IN EL CAJON

LIFE BELOW 50 MHz

Getting Soft

I have written in the past about the joys of remote operation. I have spoken of the fun you can have with a battery-operated station, working exotic DX while sitting on a mountaintop. All that may be true, but with the onset of winter and the accompanying cold, wind, and rain, I am starting to think that my cozy little Ham Shack is looking pretty good.

So, that brings me to the topic this month. It is about getting soft, as in software. I am constantly amazed at what is available these days for the Ham with a computer. It is a whole new world.

Now, some Old Timers may groan about how computers are ruining Ham Radio. Well, I say that computers are not ruining anything. You can still crank up your Collins KWM-2, key your D-104 microphone, and have a fine time. But with a computer, a modern rig, and available software, you have options that were unheard of just a few years ago.

If we are going to talk about Ham software, we can organize it into three broad categories. The first is software that helps you find a contact. The second is software that helps you make the contact, and of course, the third is software that helps you record that contact.

The first category includes software that spots DX stations for you. Most of these programs work by connecting to DX clusters, and listing DX stations that are currently on the air. Many of these programs are absolutely free, and they work just fine. However, as an example of something a lot more powerful, I will describe the \$30 "DX Monitor" software.

Sure, it lists all the DX stations. But once you get this program set up (not the easiest task, but doable), you can click on a station and get things such as the predicted propagation to that station, the MUF, estimated signal to noise ratio, and bearing. You can also create alerts that will beep at you when a needed country comes on line, and you can filter the DX spots by band or mode. This software is so good at what it does that I find myself watching it at work, even when I don't have access to a radio!

Category two is software that makes contacts. There is no shortage here. Free software is available that will allow you to operate PSK, RTTY, or any of at least a

dozen different digital modes. More recently, I have seen software that makes you a decent CW operator, even if you don't know CW! There is a great (free) program for the Mac called Cocoamodem that shows a "waterfall" for CW signals. You click on one, and the CW is decoded on your screen. Hit transmit, and your typed words are converted into letter-perfect CW and sent across the globe. MixW (\$50) will do the same for Windows.

For those who prefer the microphone, there is software coming your way as well. I have been reading about several programs that will allow you to experiment with digital voice without having to invest in an expensive interface. Imagine if you will, a signal with the same bandwidth as SSB, but with crystal-clear audio and no fading! It will be coming to your town soon!

Finally, there is software that records your contacts. I still have a number of paper logs from years past, and they are nice to have around and to reminisce over occasionally. But logging to paper was never easy!

Software is available today, free or low cost, that keeps your log and does a lot more to boot. It can track your progress towards various awards, print QSL's and track your incoming QSL's. Many of these programs also allow you to control your rig directly from the PC, and automatically fill your log entry with your frequency, power, date and time.

One thing that I absolutely love about these programs is their ability to show previous contacts. I can be talking to a station and casually mention that yes, we worked before. It was in May of 2005 on 15 meters . . . Try that with paper logs!

There are so many of these programs out there that I am not able to recommend a specific one. Look for the features that you will use the most and make your choice. Many of these programs are free, and the most expensive ones are still under \$100.

So, while the weather is bad and the solar cycle is down, I urge you to spend a little time getting soft. You will be amazed at how a little investment in software will yield big results on HF. And remember — Ham Radio is a contact sport, so get out there and make some contacts!

73,
John, WA6L

Nominations for Ham of the Year 2007



I nominate Ed Felter, AI6O, as Ham of the Year for 2007. As Vice President, Ed has done an excellent job lining up the program speaker for each of our meetings. He chaired Field Day again this year. His organization and coordination of the Field Day Team led us through a very successful Field Day, where

we obtained 3332 points and were fourth in our 8A Class with 727 QSO,s and 62 participants. We had eight stations, used the computer software logging program again this year, had plenty of radio equipment and antennas, had a handout of info for club members that included a map, had large signs made and posted for our event, had a Field Day 'T-Shirt Contest, and everyone worked well and effectively together as a team. Ed's spirit, positive can do attitude, team approach and guidance has helped the ARCEC have a very successful year, and this is why I believe he should be Ham of the Year for 2007.

Bridget KI6EEL



I feel that Gordon Shackleford, call AE6QW should be Ham of the Year for 2007 because, he has given his time to teach the general and extra class again this year. Besides the time he spends teaching the class, he also spends a

lot of time preparing the materials. Gordon has helped several members of our club advance to the next license class. Ham radio needs more Gordon's.

Floyd AF6BC

I nominate Linda Weed, KI6JUD, as Ham of the Year for 2007. Linda is a new Ham to the ARCEC, but that did not stop her from jumping in and helping out at Field Day and at our annual picnic. Unfortunately, our usual cooks could not attend these events this year, and we found ourselves three cooks short. Linda grabbed the spatula and started barbequing at Field Day and got up early to help cook breakfast on both Saturday and Sunday. She also helped cook lunch and dinners. With Linda,s help, meals were served pretty close to on time (Is there an on time at Field Day?) and no one went hungry. Linda's willingness to help and efforts were appreciated by all and that is why she is my choice for 2007 Ham of the Year.



Alyssa KI6EEK

I nominate Mike Maston to be Ham of The year because Mike has been involved with our club for many years. He has served as president, secretary, safety officier, as well as taken on many other jobs, all behind the scene. If it was not for Mike's

intervention several years ago, we would not had a Field Day site. Mike has worked very hard to promote our club. This is why I think Mike, N6OPH deserves to be the Ham of the Year.



Rich N6NKJ

Nominations for Ham of the Year 2007



I nominate Mike Oberbauer, KG6TDP, as Ham of the Year for 2007. Mike served as a Board Member this past year and is our Net Control Manager. He is now in his second year as WAMO Net Control, a job that requires him to be on the net two nights a week 52 weeks a year! Mike participated in Field Day,

lending his time and truck for hauling, and helped build the Mother Goose Parade Float after first fixing the trailer turn signal lights problem. He assisted with the picnic by transporting the BBQ and shopping for last minute supplies. He also volunteered at the Fire Station Open House with set up, working the booth and clean up. Mike is always ready and willing to lend a hand to help others, and it is this dedication and helpfulness that makes him stand out as my nomination for 2007 Ham of the Year.

Steve KO4QT



I nominate Anselmo Ruiz, KG6PRV, as Ham of the Year for 2007. Anselmo has served as our Social Chair for the past four years. He has been responsible for planning the menu, purchasing and transporting supplies, preparing meals and supervising assistant cooks with the meals at Field

Day and our annual picnic. He is the smiling face we see in the kitchen at each meeting making coffee and putting out the donuts for the best part of our meetings - our break - a time to eat, share and chat with other Hams at our meetings. Anselmo is retiring as Social Chair this year, and we will all surely miss his smile, dedication and all the work and effort he has put in over the years to keep us fed and happy. Anselmo's quiet dedication, willingness to serve and patience as Social Chair is why I nominated him for the 2007 Ham of the Year.

Linda KI6JUD

I nominate John Graf, WA6L for Ham of the Year because of his work with teaching and helping new hams interested in QRP, digimodes, and running the elmering program to put hams in contact with elmers. He's come up with the idea and implemented it to teach classes via the web, making it easier for people to attend, regardless of their location.



He publicized Ham Radio at the relay for life, as a cancer survivor and a ham. He has taken on the role of contest coordinator for the feld-hell (another digital mode related to fax) club to promote digital modes and contesting. He also volunteered and manned a station for one of the runs organized by Paul K6PKS.

As soon as he heard the talk about animal rescuers at the meeting, he volunteered for that and was part of the raid on the big cock fighting ring recently, as well as rescuing animals during the recent fires.

He is an avid kit builder and is running a kit-building class for the club.

Also he is constantly looking for new and interesting things that would be useful to know and share with other hams - currently he's looking back into packet to understand what it's modern day uses could be for traffic handling, among other things.

Dan N6ERD



Mother Goose Parade 2007



Mike, Steve & Jack Working on the Float



Hooked up and moving to Staging Area



Adding a few things with New Member
Virgil Pattin, K7VP Supervising!



Holding for the GO SIGN!



On The Parade Route



On the Route, "Not Just a Hobby &
Service but a Way of Life."

Amateur Radio At Large

From Rich N6NKJ



Hello again,

On November 21 the day before Thanksgiving, fifteen of our fellow hams went out on Red Flag Patrol for CAL FIRE. I am happy to report there were no fires or problems, and that is the way we like it. We do need more people for our patrols. So if you want to volunteer for just one organization, please consider becoming part of the VIP Red Flag program.

Speaking of emergency or public service, we also need many more people to join our East County Response Team. This is a team formed to help with events that our club or other groups have and need help with. For an example, after the wildfires that devastated our county last month, Paul Rios received a call from Craig Williams, W6CAW, who is with the Campo Fire Department, asking for more ham radio operators to maintain communications for Campo, Deer horn, and Potrero, since they were without phone service. Paul was able to get all the people he needed in a short time. His job would have been much easier if he had a list of people that are willing and able to respond when called. If you are retired, you are especially needed, since many disasters do not wait for the weekends. Please let me know if you would like to join this team.

This month is election time. I hope all of our members will turn out for this month's meeting and vote for the person who you think is worthy of serving our great club. Speaking of the club, as many of you know, four of us volunteered to call all the members of the club to see if anyone wanted to run for an office. This is your club and we are now one of the most active clubs in the county. We need your input on what kind of programs you would like the club to present and encourage your participation in all club events.

To all of you who volunteered during the recent wildfires and other events this past year, THANK YOU for your time away from home and family. You are a VIP in my eyes.

I wish all of you a very Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year filled with love, happiness and good fortune. Also, while you are enjoying your holiday, Christmas with your family and friends, let us not forget our men and women of our armed forces, who are away from home and family making sure that WE have a safe and happy season.

Until next time, 73's and 88's

Rich, N6NKJ

Membership Report

New Members



WAMO # 1747 Raymond Boisvert, W1CTM

WAMO # 1748 Virgil Pattin, K7VP

Welcome Back

WAMO # 1416 Roy Stark, Jr. KE6NQG

WAMO # 1428 Paul Liesberg WB6NFK

The roster will be updated for distribution to club members in February 2008. If anyone has any updated info, please let me know. Also, if anyone does not want to be included on the club roster, please let me know otherwise all current members will be included on the club roster for ARCEC use only.

Ann, KC6TBG

AI60	FELTER FINANCIAL GROUP, INC Financial and Estate Planning
	Ed Felter, President
	8080 La Mesa Blvd Suite #113 La Mesa CA 91941 Phone: (619) 668-0929 Fax: (619) 668-5666 E-mail: edfelter@pacbell.net

Home Brew Winners

**Novice Category – Non Antenna
Portable Solar Power Station
Ken Cohen KI6HRH - First Place**



**Extra Category - Non Antenna
Resistor Substitution Box
Pat Bunsold WA6MHZ – First Place**



**Portable To Go Kit
Len Fulbright, K5WFW - Second Place**



**Boat Anchor Tube Electronic Keyer
and pair of 12 AU7's
Rich Klotsche NJ6F - Second Place**



**Novice Category – Antenna
2 Meter Antenna
Paul Schmidt K6PKS - First Place**



**Extra Category – Antenna
160 Meter Dipole
Tom Bryan W5COM – First Place**



Amateur Radio Club of El Cajon
P.O. Box 50
El Cajon, CA 92022



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Is your membership ready to expire?

Take a look on your mailing label. Is the expiration date in 2007? Does it say EXPIRED? That means it's time to mail in your yearly dues. Please take time to fill out the membership application in this newsletter, and mail it in, or bring it to the next meeting.

Next Class

Technician Class January 2008

Please Contact:
Mike Maston
N6OPH
(619) 296-9067

Christmas Party on December 18, 2007 at Home Town Buffet in El Cajon. Dinner at 6pm and meeting at 7pm. Please join us for our end of the year party and fun.

VEC Testing Sites

1 st Saturday:	El Cajon 10:00 am First Lutheran Church of EC 867 South Lincoln Ave.
2 nd Saturday:	Carlsbad 9:30 am Carlsbad Safety Center Orion Way Carlsbad
3 rd Saturday:	North Park 10:00 am North Park Recreation Center 4044 Idaho Street San Diego
4 th Saturday:	Chula Vista 8:30 am Fire Station #7 1640 Santa Venetia Chula Vista
5 th or last Saturday:	Escondido 9:00 am LDS Church 1917 East Washington St.

To make advance reservations or to find out more info from the site captain, please call 465-EXAM (3926)

